

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 15 remain active in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, and 10-13 have been amended to correct the informalities raised by the Examiner, as well as overcome the Examiner's objections under 35 U.S.C. §101, 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for the amendments of the claims is found throughout the application. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not being labeled "Replacement Sheet". This objection is respectfully partially traversed as moot in view of the revised formal drawings submitted herewith. It is respectfully pointed out that the requirement in the previous office action was for corrected formal drawings or proposed drawing changes and the latter was submitted in response to the requirement and were properly not labeled as being replacement sheets. As noted in the Applicant's response of June 2, 2004, Applicant requested approval from the Examiner for the proposed revisions prior to submitting revised formal drawings. Since neither the Examiner nor the PTO Draftsperson has commented on the proposed revisions, the Applicant assumes that the proposed revision submitted on June 2, 2004 are acceptable and has incorporated said revisions into the formal drawing submitted herewith. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-4 and 6-15 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101. This objection is respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 6 and 11. Particularly, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to emphasize the instruction buffer and buffer queue as being part of a pipeline processor. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and shown in Figure 1 of the present invention. Furthermore, the Oxford English Dictionary recognizes buffers and queues, as it pertains to computing, to be components or arrangements of

data having utility in data processors. Attached for the Examiner's reference is a copy of pertinent portions of the Oxford English Dictionary. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to subject matter which are manifestly statutory and, further, the above clarifying amendments to these claims are a full and sufficient response to the Examiner's objection under 35 U.S.C. §101. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-4 and 11-15 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. This objection is respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the amendments to claims 1-4 and 11-13 which clarify the points raised by the Examiner and generally adopt language consistent with the Examiner's expressed understanding of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,157,998 to Rupley, II, et al. (hereinafter "Rupley"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the amendments above and remarks below.

The present invention is directed to an instruction buffer and a method for controlling an instruction buffer, particularly for a processor having a pipelined architecture such that several instructions can be processed simultaneously, either in-order or out-of-order. For this purpose, the invention includes two (parallel) instruction registers in which different and mutually exclusive classes of instructions may be stored in order of priority of execution and through which dependencies (e.g. where the execution of one instruction must be deferred until the completion of another instruction) and readiness for execution may be expressed, preferably through a validity bit and dependence and release control fields (68, 69, 88, 89). Thus the instruction registers 22, 23 of the invention can function to deliver instructions in-order or out-of-order in accordance with dependencies while the respective buffers function in a first-in-first-out (FIFO) age-sensitive manner to prevent the instruction buffer(s) from becoming filled with instructions awaiting execution; a condition which slows overall processing.

In contrast, Rupley is concerned with branch prediction, particularly when the outcome a

plurality of interrelated or nested branching operations are to be performed. While Rupley provides separate but serially connected instruction and completion unit buffers respectively preceding and following a dispatch unit and execution unit; the latter completion unit being controlled by a branch prediction unit which can invalidate operations including other branch instructions in the completion unit when a branch prediction fails. Thus, while the system of Rupley may appear to include a processor having a pipeline architecture; the instruction buffer 20 (but not completion unit 24 since it provides for removal of instructions corresponding to incorrect branch predictions but does not issue instructions) functions as a single FIFO buffer, and the remainder of the function of the claimed subject matter and its organization is very different from that of Rupley. In fact, Rupley does not accommodate any difference in order of instructions in the single instruction buffer, but only accommodates differences between order of completion of determination of branching instructions relative to order of issuance where branching instructions are nested so that nested branches can be merged as recovery from incorrect branch prediction can be initiated when the branch condition is determined.

With regard to claim 1 of the present invention, as amended, Rupley clearly does not answer the recitation of first and second buffers wherein each issues instructions in storage entry order. Support for the present amendment of this recitation can be found in page 20 of the specification, and is shown in Figure 13, of the present invention. The Examiner has essentially acknowledged that Rupley does not provide for such storage entry order (see page 17, paragraph 45, of the Office Action). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Rupley does not anticipate claim 1, nor dependent claims 2-4, of the present invention and the ground of rejection based on Rupley is untenable in regard to the claims as now amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the ground of rejection based on Rupley with regard to claims 1-4 be reconsidered and withdrawn and the application be passed to issue.

With regard to claims 6-10 of the present invention, as amended, Rupley clearly does not teach nor suggest a method of grouping of instructions with logical operations being performed in regard to issuance of instructions in accordance with the group(s) to which a given instruction belongs (see claims 6-8), the concurrent execution of instructions from different groups (see

claim 9), or the differentiation, between groups, of memory access instructions and operation instructions (see claim 10). The Examiner cites to Figures 4-10 in Rupley as being anticipatory of the invention presented in claims 6-10. However, it is clearly shown that Figures 3-6 in Rupley sequentially illustrate pairing for branch instructions and dispatching. Alternatively, Figures 7-10 in Rupley illustrate what happens from Figure 6 as branches are resolved as predicted or mispredicted serially or concurrently.

With regard to claims 11-15 of the present invention, as amended, Rupley clearly does not teach nor suggest such a buffer queue for a pipeline processor. Particularly, Rupley clearly teaches only one register and one order for instructions issued. Moreover, completion unit (24) in Rupley merely holds instructions already dispatched from instruction buffer (20) and awaiting completion. Furthermore, branch resolution/completion in Rupley can occur in any order and completion unit (24) controls merging of identified streams delimited by branches as the branches become determinate. As previously mentioned, Figures 3-6 in Rupley sequentially illustrate pairing for branch instructions and dispatching, while Figures 7-10 alternatively illustrate what happens from Figure 6 as branches are resolved as predicted or mispredicted.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Rupley does not anticipate any claim in the application and the ground of rejection based on Rupley is untenable in regard to the claims as not amended. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* demonstration of anticipation of the subject matter contained in claims 1-4 and 6-15. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the ground of rejection based on Rupley be reconsidered and withdrawn and the application be passed to issue.

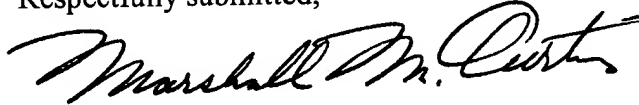
Since all rejections, objections and requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been fully answered and shown to be in error and/or inapplicable to the present claims, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed,

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M. Kawaguchi
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a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marshall M. Curtis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marshall" being the most prominent.

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as a soft inflated object does when struck; strike so as to cause such a sound. M16.

buff /bʌf/ v.t. M19. [f. BUFF n.] 1 Polish, spec. with a buff. M19. 2 Impart a velvety surface to (leather). L19.

1 K. KESSEY Get them to work buffing the floor. F. KING Fingernails buffed to an opalescent pink.

buffalo /ˈbʌfələʊ/ n. & v. M16. [Prob. immed. f. Port. *bufalo* (now *bufaro*) = It. *bufalo*, Sp. *búfalo*, *bufalo*, f. late L. *bubalus* f. L. *bubalus* f. Gk. *boubalos* wild ox, antelope. Cf. BUFF n., BUFFLE.] A n. Pl. -oes, same. 1a Any of several wild Asiatic oxen of the genus *Bubalus*, with long curved horns, esp. *B. arnee* (more fully water-buffalo), which has been domesticated. M16. b A similar wild African ox, *Syncerus caffer* (more fully Cape buffalo). L17. 2 = American bison s.v. BISON. 1. Chiefly N. Amer. M17. 3 A large river-fish of the genus *Ictiobus*, of the sucker family. N. Amer. L18. 4 In full buffalo robe. A rug or cloak made of lined trimmed buffalo hide. N. Amer. E19. 5 (B-) A member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, a social club and benevolent society. M19. 6 An amphibious tank. M20.

Comb.: buffalo berry (the edible fruit of a tree or shrub of the N. American genus *Shepherdia*, of the oleaster family, esp. *S. canadensis* and *S. argentea*; buffalo bird (a) an osprey; (b) a cowbird; buffalo chips dried buffalo dung used as fuel; buffalo clover a native N. American clover, *Trifolium sativum*, found on the prairies; buffalo fish N. Amer. = sense 3 above; buffalo fly, gnat = blackfly (b) s.v. BLACK a.; buffalo grass any of various grasses, esp. (N. Amer.) *Buchloe dactyloides*, (Austral. & NZ) *Stenotaphrum secundatum*; buffalo-nut (the oily nut of a parasitic N. American shrub, *Pyrularia pubera*, of the sandalwood family; buffalo robe: see sense 3 above; buffalo runner N. Amer. Hist. a swift horse for hunting buffalo.

B v.t. Overawe, bemuse, baffle, outwit. N. Amer. slang. E20.

M. PUZO He could still command a hefty advance for a book, he still had critics buffaloeled.

buffe /bʊf/ n. L16. [It. *buffa*.] †1 A breathing-hole of a helmet. Only in L16. 2 Hist. A piece of armour for the chin, pierced with breathing-holes. E17.

buffel n. var. of BUFFLE.

buffer /ˈbʌfə/ n. & v. LME. [Prob. f. BUFF v. + -ER.] A n. 1 †1 A stammerer. Only in LME. 2 A fellow; esp. an old-fashioned or incompetent fellow. Freq. in old buffer. slang. M18. b Naut. A boatswain's mate; a petty officer. M19. 113 An apparatus for deadening impact; spec. either of a pair of projecting shock absorbers fitted to a cross-beam at the end of a railway vehicle or on a fixed mounting across the end of a railway line (usu. in pl.). Also fig., a protective intermediary. M19. 4 Chem. A substance or mixture of substances (usu. a weak acid or base with one of its salts) which tends to stabilize the pH of a solution; a solution containing this. E20. 5 Computing. An intermediate memory for the temporary storage of information during data transfers, esp. one that accepts data at one rate and delivers them at another. M20.

3 B. TRAPIDO She has a tendency to answer questions for him as if he needed her as a buffer between himself and a hostile world.

Comb.: buffer area (lit. & fig.): separating potential belligerents; buffer solution Chem. a solution containing a buffer; buffer State a small country lying between two possible belligerents, diminishing the chance of hostilities; buffer stock a stock of a commodity held in reserve so as to offset price fluctuations; buffer stop a pair of buffers fixed at the end of a railway line; buffer zone: separating potential belligerents.

B v.t. 1 Act as a buffer to (chiefly fig.); lessen the impact of. L19. 2 Chem. Treat with a buffer; stabilize by means of a buffer. E20.

buffer /ˈbʌfə/ n. arch. E19. [Prob. imit.] A dog.

buffer /ˈbʌfə/ n. M19. [f. BUFF v. + -ER.] A person who polishes with a buff; a device for buffing.

buffet /ˈbʌfɪt/ n. ME. [OFr. *buffet* (dim. of *bufe* BUFF n.): see -ET.] 1 A blow, esp. with the hand; a knock, an impact. ME. 2 Aeronaut. = BUFFETING (c). M20.

1 A. P. HERBERT Mr. Walker gave him a buffet in the ribs with his fist. S. T. WARNER Calamities go on having a buffet at us.

buffet /ˈbʌfɪt/ n. Now dial. LME. [OFr. *buffet* (et. of unkn. origin.)] 1 A low stool; a footstool. Also buffet-stool. LME. 2 A hassock. L19.

buffet /ˈbʊfeɪ/ in sense 1 also /ˈbʌfɪt/ n. E18. [Fr., f. as prec.] 1 A sideboard or recessed cupboard for china, plate, etc. E18. 2 (A place offering) a service of food from a sideboard or counter where guests or customers can help themselves; esp. (a) a refreshment room in a station or other public building; (b) (in full buffet car) a railway carriage serving light refreshments. L18.

Comb.: buffet car: see sense 2 above. buffet meal, party, etc.: at which food is served from a sideboard etc.

buffet /ˈbʌfɪt/ v. ME. [(O)Fr. *buffeter*, f. as BUFFET n.] 1 v.t. Beat, strike, thump, knock about, (lit. & fig.). ME. b Beat back, contend with (waves, wind, etc.). L16. 2 v.i. Deal blows, fight, struggle. L16. 3 v.t. Drive, force, or produce by buffeting. L17.

1 O. MANNING As the crowd pressed past him, he was buffeted mercilessly from side to side. B. BAINBRIDGE The train, buffeted by wind, was swaying over the steel lattice of a bridge. b SHAKES. *Jul. Caes.* The torrent roar'd, and we did buffet it With lusty sinews. 2 fig.: TENNYSON I heard... the great echo flap And buffet round the hills. 3 F. PARKMAN He buffeted his way to riches and fame.

buffeting n. (a) the action of the vb; (b) a beating, a thumping; (c) Aeronaut. irregular oscillation of a part of an aircraft owing to turbulence, esp. near sonic speed: ME.

†**buffin** n. L16-E18. [Origin unkn.] (A gown of) a kind of a coarse cloth.

buffle /ˈbʌf(ə)l/ n. Long obs. exc. in comb. Also -el. E16. [(O)Fr. f. It. *bufalo*: see BUFFALO.] 1 A buffalo. E16. 2 A fool, a fat-head. M17.

Comb.: bufflehead (a) = sense 2 above; (b) a black and white N. American diving duck, *Bucephala albeola*, with a relatively large head; buffle-headed a. †(a) having a head like a buffalo's; (b) large-headed; fat-headed, foolish, stupid.

buffo /ˈbʊfəʊ/ n. & a. M18. [It. = puff of wind, buffoon, f. *buffare*: see next.] A n. Pl. -os. A comic actor, a singer in comic opera. M18.

primo buffo: see PRIMO a.

B adj. Comic, burlesque. L18.

BASSO buffo.

buffoon /ˈbʊfuːn/ n., a., & v. M16. [Fr. *buffon* f. It. *buffone*, f. med.L. *buffo* clown, f. Proto-Romance vb meaning 'puff', of imit. origin: see -OON.] A n. †1 A pantomime dance. Sc. rare. Only in M16. 2 A (professional) jester, a clown. arch. L16. 3 A (vulgar or ludicrous) joker, a wag, a mocker. Usu. derog. L16. B attrib. or as adj. Belonging to or characteristic of a buffoon; vulgarly jocular. arch. E17. C v. 1 v.t. Ridicule, burlesque. arch. M17. 2 v.i. Play the buffoon. L17.

buffoonery n. the actions or an act of a buffoon; silliness, farce: E17. buffoonish a. like or characteristic of a buffoon; silly, ridiculous: L17.

buffy /ˈbʌfi/ a. L18. [f. BUFF n. or a. + -y.] Resembling buff in colour or appearance.

buffy coat Med. a thin pale layer of white cells which forms on clotted blood, or between the red cells and plasma when blood is centrifuged.

buffy /ˈbʌfi/ a. slang. M19. [Origin unkn.] Tipsy, moderately drunk.

†**bufonite** n. M17-M19. [f. L. *bufon-*, *bufo* toad + -ITE.] = TOADSTONE n.1

bufotenine /ˈbjʊfəˈtenɪn/ n. E20. [Fr. *bufoténine*, f. L. *bufo* toad + (prob.) *tenere* hold (because of an ability to cause paralysis): see -INE.] Chem. An alkaloid which occurs in various amphibian secretions, mushrooms, and tropical plants, and has hallucinogenic, hypertensive, and vasoconstrictive actions.

†**bug** n.1 LME-L19. [Rel. to BOGGARD, BOGLE, etc. Connection w. Welsh *bug*, *bugan* (ghost, hobgoblin), *bygw* (fear, threat) uncertain. Cf. BUGBEAR.] An (imaginary) object of terror; a bugbear, a bogey, a scarecrow.

Comb.: bug-word a word meant to frighten.

bug /bʌg/ n. E17. [Origin uncertain. Perh. f. OE -budda, as in *scēambudda* dung-beetle, or rel. to prec.] 1a A hemipteran insect; orig. spec. the bedbug (see BED n.). E17. b gen. Any insect, esp. a small beetle or grub. Freq. w. specifying wd, as *harvest bug*, *June bug*, *ladybug*, *red bug*, etc. (absol. chiefly N. Amer.). colloq. M17. 2 A person obsessed by an idea; an enthusiast. Also, an obsession, a craze. slang. M19. 3 A defect or fault in a machine, plan, etc.; spec. a mistake or malfunction in a computer program or system. colloq. L19. 4 A (school)boy, usu. of specified status etc. slang. E20. 5 A micro-organism, esp. a virus; a disease caused by this. colloq. E20. 6 A burglar-alarm system. US slang. E20. 7 A concealed microphone. M20.

1 big bug: see BIG a. 2 Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio) Cusick is a bug on weight-lifting. fire-bug, jitterbug, etc. 4 new bug: see NEW a.

Comb.: bugbane any of various tall plants of the genus *Cimicifuga* of the buttercup family, bearing small white flowers (C. *foetida* was formerly used to drive away bedbugs); bug-hunter slang an entomologist; a naturalist; bugwort = bugbane above.

bug /bʌg/ a. Long obs. exc. dial. M16. [Origin unkn.] Pompous; conceited; fine.

bug /bʌg/ v.t. Infl. -gg-. M19. [f. BUG n.] 1 Clear (plants etc.) of insects. M19. 2 Equip with an alarm system or a concealed microphone; listen to by means of a concealed microphone. E20. 3 Annoy, bother. colloq. M20.

bug /bʌg/ v.t. i. N. Amer. colloq. Infl. -gg-. L19. [Origin unkn.] Of the eyes: bulge out.

Comb.: bug-eyed a. having bulging eyes (bug-eyed monster, an extraterrestrial monster (with bulging eyes)).

bug /bʌg/ v.t. i. slang (chiefly US). Infl. -gg-. M20. [Origin of sense 1 uncertain. In sense 2 abbrev. of BUGGER v.] 1 Get out, leave quickly. M20. 2 Foll. by off: go away. L20.

bugaboo /ˈbʌgəbuː/ n. M18. [Cf. Welsh *bwci* bo bogey, Corn. *bucca*.] 1 A bogey, a bugbear. M18. 2 Loud or empty talk; nonsense, rubbish. L19.

bugaku /ˈbʌgakuː/ n. L19. [Jap., f. *bu* dancing + *gaku* music.] A Japanese classical dance in which pure dance form and symmetry are emphasized, and masks are used.

bugbear /ˈbʌgbeɪ/ n. & a. L16. [Prob. f. BUG n.1 + BEAR n.1.] A n. 1 A sort of hobgoblin (perhaps in the shape of a bear) supposed to devour naughty children; gen. any imaginary being invoked to frighten children. L16. 2 transf. An object of (needless) dread; an imaginary terror; an annoyance. L16. B attrib. or as adj. Needlessly alarming or annoying. E17.

bugger /ˈbʌgə/ n. ME. [(MDu. f.) (O)Fr. *bougre* heretic, sodomite (arch.), person (colloq.), f. med.L. *Bulgarus* Bulgarian (esp. as adhering to the Orthodox Church), heretic, Albigenian: see BULGAR.] 1 †1 (B-) A heretic; spec. an Albigenian. ME-M18. 2 A person who commits buggery. coarse slang exc. Law. M16.

11 Extended uses: all coarse slang. 3 An unpleasant or undesirable person or thing; (in weakened sense) a person, a chap. Cf. BEGGAR n. 3. E18. 4 A negligible amount. E20.

3 F. MANNING There are two poor buggers dead. G. ORWELL This business of class-breaking is a bugger. play silly buggers fool about, mess around. 4 not care or give a bugger. bugger all: see ALL pron. & n. 3.

bugger /ˈbʌgə/ n. M20. [f. BUG v.1 + -ER.] A person who installs a concealed microphone.

bugger /ˈbʌgə/ v. L16. [f. BUGGER n.1] 11 v.t. & i. Commit buggery (with). L16.

11 Extended uses: all coarse slang. 2 v.t. Curse, damn. Freq. in imprecations in imper. or in optative form (for God etc. bugger —). L18. b v.i. Curse. As int.: damn! M19. 3a v.t. Ruin, spoil; mess up; mess about or around (with); tire, exhaust, (chiefly as buggered ppl a.). E20. b v.i. Mess or potter about, around. M20. 4 v.i. Foll. by off: go away. E20.

2 S. BECKETT Bugger these buttons! C. P. SNOW I'm buggered if I vote for Crawford.

buggery /ˈbʌgəri/ n. ME. [MDu. *buggerie*, OFr. *bougrerie*, *bouguerie*, f. as BUGGER n.1: see -y.] †1 Abominable heresy. Only in ME. 2 Sodomy.

in quest of leaf-mould, in our local woods. 6 C. KINGSLEY By the laws of chivalry... you must fulfil my quest. *transf.*: A. BROOKNER This search, for him, has become a mythic quest.

Comb.: **questman** /f/ a person appointed to undertake or participate in an official inquiry; (b) *Ecdl.* (obs. exc. *Hist.*) a churchwarden's assistant.

quest /kwest/ v. ME. [OFr. *quester* (mod. *quêter*), f. *queste*: see prec.] 1 v.i. Of a hound: search (about) for game (obs. exc. *dial.*); bay at the sight of game. ME. 2 v.i. Go (about) in search of something; search. Also foll. by *after*, *for*. E17. b RC Ch. Ask for donations. M18. 3 v.i. Search for, pursue. *poet.* M18.

2 I. FLEMING Beneath his conscious thoughts his senses were questing for enemies. E. BOWEN A car could be heard going slowly by, turning and coming past again, still questing. 3 *American Poetry Review* They deliberately quest wisdom.

†**questant** n. (rare, Shakes.) = **QUESTER**: only in E17. **questingly** adv. in a questing manner E20.

quester /kwestə/ n. M16. [f. prec. + -ER¹.] A person who quests.

question /'kwestʃ(ə)n/ n. ME. [AN *questiun*, (O)Fr. *question* f. L *questio*(n)-, f. *quaest*-pa. ppl stem of *quaerere* seek, inquire: see -ION.] 1 What is inquired (about). 1 A sentence worded or expressed in a form such as to elicit information from a person; inquiry. ME. b In pl. The catechism. Sc. L18. 2 The interrogative statement of a point to be investigated; a problem, a difficulty; a doubt; *gen.* a matter forming or capable of forming the basis of a problem. Also (foll. by *of*), a matter of concern depending on or involving a specified condition or thing. ME. b *spec.* A subject or proposal to be debated, decided, or voted on, in a meeting or deliberative assembly, esp. Parliament. M16. 3 A dispute (between parties). Now rare. LME.

1 GOLDSMITH Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no fibs. C. ISHERWOOD Excused from having to ask those ghastly sickroom questions. 2 R. MACAULAY It was now only a question of time; she would recover. *Scotsman* A number of important questions which he is likely to raise. G. F. KENNAN The Russian question was not on the agenda... but the senior statesmen could scarcely fail to talk about it. A. PRICE Devious and ruthless men, no question about that. A. CROSS The question is... whether to believe him at all. *Tennis World* The game today is more a question of service and return. 3 W. CRUISE A question arose between the heir at law and the younger children.

II The action of inquiring. 4 The stating or investigation of a problem; inquiry into a matter; the expression of some doubt; discussion of a doubtful point. LME. 5 The action of questioning a person; the fact of being questioned; judicial examination; interrogation. Formerly also, talk, discourse. *arch.* LME. b *Hist.* the question, torture as part of interrogation. L16.

4 F. SPALDING She throws into question accepted literary values. A. STORR Various details of the Oedipus theory are open to question. 5 TENNYSON Fixing full eyes of question on her face.

Phrases: a good question: see **GOOD** a. beg the question: see **BEG** v. 4. beyond (all) question undoubtedly. call in (or into) question: see **CALL** v. come into question: be discussed, be a practical proposition. direct question: see **DIRECT** a. Homeric question: see **HOMERIC** 1. indirect question. In question (a) that is being discussed or referred to; (b) in dispute (now chiefly in call in question). leading question: see **LEADING** a. no question of no possibility of. no questions asked with no need to account for one's conduct etc. open question: see **OPEN** a. out of the question too impracticable to be considered or discussed, impossible. pop the question: see **POP** v. 2b. previous question: see **PREVIOUS** a. put the question require members of a deliberative assembly or meeting to vote on a proposal. rhetorical question: see **RHETORICAL** 1. UNSTARRED question. without question undoubtedly. x-question: see **X**, x 5c.

Comb.: **question mark** (a) a punctuation mark (?) indicating a question; (b) fig. a doubtful point or matter, an unresolved problem; a person about whom there is some mystery or doubt; **question-master** a person who presides over a quiz game etc.; **question time** a period during parliamentary proceedings when MPs may question ministers; **question word** an interrogative pronoun etc., used to introduce a question.

question /'kwestʃ(ə)n/ v. LME. [(O)Fr. *questionner*, f. *question*: see prec.] 1 v.i. & †i. (w. *with*). Ask a question or questions of; fig. seek information from the study of (phenomena, facts). LME. b v.t. Examine judicially, interrogate; accuse (of). Now rare. E17. 2 v.t. Raise the question (if, whether); doubt. M16. 3 v.i. Ask questions. L16. 4 v.t. Ask (how, what, etc.). Now only with direct speech as obj. L16. †5 v.t. Ask or inquire about. rare. L16-M17. 6 v.t. Call in question, dispute. M17. b Bring into question, make doubtful. rare. M17.

1 J. STEINBECK The friends... questioned one another with their eyes. E. LONGFORD I questioned John half a century later about that suit. JOAN SMITH An unidentified man was still being questioned in connection with Puddelphat's murder. b LD MACAULAY Questioned before any tribunal. 2 LYNDON B. JOHNSON The New York Times questioned whether the moon program was justified. 3 POPE I scarce uplift my eyes, Nor dare to question. 4 E. BLAIR 'Who's Harry Pollitt?' she questioned. 6 J. A. FROUDE Any one who openly questioned the truth of Christianity was treated as a public offender. A. S. NEILL Don't question anything—just obey.

questionee n. a person who is questioned M19. **questioner** n. LME. **questioningly** adv. in a questioning manner M19.

questionable /'kwestʃ(ə)nəb(ə)l/ a. LME. [f. prec. + -ABLE.] 1a That may be called in question; open to dispute; doubtful as regards truth or quality. LME. b Of obscure meaning. rare. M18. c Of doubtful nature, character, or quality; not clearly in accordance with honesty, honour, respectability, wisdom, etc. E19. †2 Of a person: of whom questions may be asked. rare (Shakes.). Only in E17. †3 Liable to be called to account or examined with judicially. M-L17.

1a J. BERMAN He uses questionable logic that he passes off as profound psychological truth. L. KENNEDY To say that she did not love me is questionable. c A. THWAITE She cast a cold eye on Edmund, as one of Louis' questionable English friends. *Natural History* Alleging that their money was made by dealing in illicit products or using questionable methods.

questionability n. M19. **questionableness** n. M17. **questionably** adv. M19.

†**questionary** n.¹ rare. LME. [med.L *questionarius*, f. L *quaestio*(n)- **QUESTION** n.: see -ARY¹.] 1 = **QUESTIONIST**. LME-L18. 2 = **QUESTOR** 1. rare. Only in E19.

questionary /'kwestʃ(ə)n(ə)ri/ n.² Now rare exc. *Med.* M16. [med.L *questionarium*; reintroduced in L19 f. Fr. *questionnaire*: see -ARY¹.] Orig. (rare), a catechism. Now = **QUESTIONNAIRE**.

questionary /'kwestʃ(ə)n(ə)ri/ a. M17. [App. f. **QUESTION** n. + -ARY¹.] Having the form of a question; conducted by means of questioning.

questionist /'kwestʃ(ə)nɪst/ n. E16. [med.L *questionista*, f. L *quaestio*(n)- **QUESTION** n. + -IST.] 1 A habitual questioner, *spec.* in theological matters. E16. 2 *Hist.* At Cambridge and Harvard universities: an undergraduate in the last term before final examinations. L16.

questionless /'kwestʃ(ə)nɪs/ adv. & a. LME. [f. **QUESTION** n. + -LESS.] A adv. Without question; undoubtedly. Now rare. LME. B adj. 1 Not admitting of question; indubitable. M16. 2 That asks no questions, unquestioning. L19.

questionlessly adv. (a) undoubtedly; (b) without asking questions: M17.

questionnaire /kwestʃə'neɪ, kwestʃə-/ n. L19. [Fr., f. *questionner* **QUESTION** v. + -aire -ARY¹.] A formulated series of questions by which information is sought from a selected group, usu. for statistical analysis; a document containing these.

questor /'kwestə/ n. LME. [med.L, or L *quaestor*.] 1 RC Ch. An official appointed to grant indulgences on the gift of alms to the Church. LME. 2 In France: any of the treasurers of the National Assembly. M19. b = **QUESTORE**. rare. M19. 3 A person who quests or searches for something. L19.

questore /kwestə're/ n. Pl. -ri /-ri/. M20. [It., f. as prec.] In Italy: a chief of police.

†**questrist** n. rare (Shakes.). Only in E17. [f. **QUESTER** + -IST.] A person who goes in quest of another.

questura /kwestʊ're/ n. Pl. -re /-re/. E20. [It. f. L *quaestura*, f. as *QUAESTOR*.] In Italy: a police station; the police.

quetch /kwestʃ/ v. obs. exc. *dial.* [OE *cweccan* causative f. *QUAKE* v. Cf. *SQUITCH* v.] †1 v.t. Shake, brandish. OE-ME. b v.i. Of a thing: shake, tremble. Only in ME. †2 v.i. Go, travel. Only in ME. 3 v.i. Twitch; move (a part of) the body. Later *esp.*, shrink; wince. Usu. in neg. contexts. ME. b Utter a sound. Usu. in neg. contexts. M16.

quête /ket/ n. E20. [Fr. = **quest**.] The traditional act of begging for food or alms to the accompaniment of folk-song.

†**quethe** v. Pa. t. QUOTH. [OE *cweþan* = OFris. *qwetha*, OS *queþan*, OHG *quedan*, ON *kveða*, Goth. *qipan*, f. Gmc.] 1 v.t. & (rare) i. Say, tell, declare, (something). OE-M16. 2 v.t. Bequeath. ME-M16.

quetsch /kvetʃ, kwetʃ/ n. M19. [G *Quetsche* dial. form of *Zwetsche* plum.] An oval dark-skinned variety of plum; the tree bearing this fruit. Also, a liqueur made from these plums.

quetzal /'kɛts(ə)l/ n. Pl. -zals, in sense 2 **quetzales** /kɛt'sə:lz/. E19. [Sp. (also earlier) *quetzale*, f. Aztec *quetzalli* brightly coloured tail feather.] 1 Any of various Central and S. American trogons of the genus *Pharomacrus*, the males of which are noted for their iridescent green plumage with red to yellow underparts, *esp.* (more fully resplendent *quetzal*) *P. mocinno*, which has extremely long tail coverts. E19. 2 The basic monetary unit of Guatemala, equal to 100 centavos. E20.

queue /kju:/ n. See also **CUE** n.² L16. [Fr., ult. f. L *cauda* tail; branch II perh. a different wd.] 1 *Her.* The tail of an animal. L16. 2 A plait of hair worn at the back; a pigtail. M18. 3 A line of people, vehicles, etc., awaiting their turn to proceed, be attended to, etc. M19. b *Computing*. A list of data items, commands, etc., stored in such a way that they are only retrievable in a definite order (either the order of storage or its reverse). M20. 4 *Hist.* A support for the butt of a lance. M19.

1 **queue fourché(e)** having a forked or double tail. 3 E. FIGES The queue of office employees at the bus stop. *transf.*: *Listener* The railways had to take their place in the queue after housing. *jump the queue*: see **JUMP** v.

115 *Chiefly Hist.* A barrel holding approx. one and a half hogsheads of wine; this quantity of wine. L18.

Comb.: **queue-jump** v.i. go ahead of one's position in a queue (chiefly as *queue-jumping* vbl n.); **queue-jumper** a person who queue-jumps.

queued a. (*Her.*) (of an animal) having a tail, *spec.* of a different colour from that of the body L17.

queue /kju:/ v. Pres. ppl & vbl n. **queuing**, **queueing**. L18. [f. the n.] 1 v.t. Put up (the hair) in a queue or pigtail. L18. 2 v.i. a Move along in line. Foll. by *in*. rare. L19. b Stand or take one's place in a queue; form a queue. Also foll. by *up*. E20. c v.t. Arrange in line (as) in a queue or queues. E20.

2b A. BROOKNER She liked queuing for the bus. G. SWIFT People queued up for hours.

Comb.: **queue theory** the statistical investigation of the structure and behaviour of queues.

queuer n. a person who queues M20.

quey /kwei/ n. Sc. & north. LME. [ON *kveiga*, app. f. *ku* cow.] A young cow before it has had a calf.

quia timet /kwɪə 'tɪmɪt/ adv. & a. *phr.* E17. [L, lit. 'because he or she fears'.] *Law*. A adv. *phr.* So as to prevent a possible future injury. E17. B adj. *phr.* Of an injunction: brought for this purpose. L17.

†**quib** n. M16. [Prob. f. L *quibus* dat. and abl. pl. of *qui*, *quae*, *quod* who, what, which, as a wd frequently occurring in legal documents and so associated with verbal niceties or subtle distinctions.] 1 = **QUIBBLE** n. 2. M16-E17. 2 A gibe, a taunt. rare. M17-E19.